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NOTE VERBALE DATED 31 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations presents his compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to forward the attached letter from Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, regarding the Security Council's recent deliberations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for circulation to the members of the Security Council and for distribution as a document of the Council.

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Annex

Letter dated 31 January 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the Security Council's recent deliberations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to recall the presidential statement issued by the Council on 26 January 2000 (S/PRST/2000/2).

The South African Government has consistently supported the efforts of the Southern African Development Community, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations to bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo - a process that culminated in the signing in Lusaka of a Ceasefire Agreement on 10 July 1999 (S/1999/815).

My Government is appreciative of the Council's recent efforts to support and strengthen the implementation of the Agreement, by inviting the Heads of State of the parties to New York to recommit themselves to the Agreement.

Their common resolve to adhere to and implement the Agreement, and the Security Council's commitment, contained in the presidential statement of 26 January 2000 (S/PRST/2000/2), to begin consideration of a resolution authorizing the expansion of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) along the lines recommended by the Secretary-General in his report of 17 January 2000 (S/2000/30), are welcome developments.

Pursuant to the above, the South African Government has the honour to request that the Security Council urgently adopt the draft resolution referred to in the presidential statement, with particular attention being paid to the following general principles:

- Security Council resolutions authorizing United Nations deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo must be wholly based on the Lusaka Agreement of 10 July 1999 (S/1999/815).

- States and non-State parties involved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo must equally demonstrate their commitment to the Lusaka Agreement.

- It is important for the national dialogue to take place in an environment which is acceptable to the parties, and which guarantees the participants' security.

- No conditionalities should be attached to the deployment of MONUC, such as linkage to the need for "progress" in the national dialogue.

- MONUC/JMC and associated personnel should enjoy the necessary security and freedom of movement to effectively implement the Lusaka Agreement.

- MONUC/JMC must coordinate closely, including sharing location and support structures, to ensure that both operate in a mutually supportive manner towards the achievement of shared goals agreed to in chapters VII, VIII and IX of the Lusaka Agreement.

- The Security Council resolution authorizing the deployment of MONUC phase II should, in addition, reaffirm the commitment of the Security Council to begin preparations for a phase III deployment, under a Chapter VII mandate.

- Lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo cannot be achieved without the disarmament of all armed groups. Relevant Security Council resolutions which provide for the implementation of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and resettlement must contain a mandate for effective disarmament under Chapter VII of the Charter. This will create the necessary conditions allowing for the withdrawal of foreign forces.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nkosazana DLAMINI-ZUMA
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of South Africa